Walking in My Parents’ Steps

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Abstract
In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay’s first paragraph.

"Ever since I was young my parents have supported me through sports and academics. They have helped me to achieve my goals and have ultimately made me who I am today. During this time however, I was so busy growing up that I forgot that they too were growing old. By taking a step back and realizing this, I have been able to think about all they have done for me throughout the years and how great of an impact that has had on my life and will continue to have as I continue to grow up."

Cover Page Footnote
Selected for the Parent and Child prize
*** Walking in My Parents’ Steps

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My education and religion have had the biggest influence on my life. From the time I was in pre-kindergarten until now I have gone to a Catholic, private school. This was a decision my parents did not have to think about because my father had gone to Catholic, private school in his youth and my mother’s family was very involved in the church as well. They were raised in the Roman Catholic faith so they continued that when they raised my sister and me; we went to elementary school at St. Bernadette School where I was baptized as a baby and where my father went to school. It was a great honor to walk in the same halls where my father had grown up.
By attending Catholic elementary and high school I was given the faith foundation that I needed along with an excellent education. It helped me to grow in my faith and gave me the opportunity to volunteer and give back to those less fortunate, which were values my parents had instilled in me at a young age. By having a strong faith when I was young, I was also able to cope with the loss of my grandmother, great-grandmother, and grandpa all during my elementary school years. I was able to understand why they were taken from me and I am happy I had my faith during those times. My Catholic education also instilled in me many important values that my parents continued to strive for outside of the classroom. My parents have always told me to be a good person and through my Catholic education I was able to learn what that meant and I continue to strive for that every day.

Since I was young I have always wanted to be a nurse. This is mostly due to the fact that my mother is a nurse and at a young age I was exposed to the healthcare setting. All of her coworkers as well as my relatives told me I would make a great nurse because I had such a wonderful role model.